

The Caisson Corner

Camp Liberty, Iraq

April/May 2006

From the Battalion Commander

Once again I send a heart felt thank you and my warmest regards to our Iron Caisson family from Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Throughout our time here, the Soldiers of 589th continue to amaze me as they support the fight every day. Last month I highlighted some of the missions our Soldiers accomplish, this month I would like to point out the dedication of this great team I have the privilege to serve with every day.

Our Army's most precious resources are the Soldiers and their families that make up the Army of One. Since we have been deployed, I have witnessed these dedicated Soldiers volunteer to extend there service to our nation through reenlisting to stay on the Army team. Every



LTC Diehl receives a brief from SGT Cockrell on the latest improvement to the M114 Up Armored Vehicle

Soldier has there own reason for choosing to remain in boots and what ever that reason, I know that no decision is made alone. When a Soldier reenlists his whole family

"re-up's". On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to personally thank each and every Soldier and their family for their continued service. I would ask that all who find themselves at a decision point on Army life consider all the benefits of remaining in service to our nation. Many of your fellow Soldiers and families have taken advantage of several reenlistment options available to them, and the special added benefits of reenlisting while deployed. To this date 44 Soldiers have reenlisted in theater. This great group has combined to earn \$601,536 in tax free reenlistment bonuses. Even more remarkable is the 231 years of continued service to our Nation and Army. There are many other benefits like stabilization, education, or reenlisting for a



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location.

I thank each and everyone of you for your dedicated service and your continued support and encouragement to our Soldiers.

IRON CAISSON'S

"SUPPORT THE FIGHT"

LTC BARRY A. DIEHL

From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major

Greetings to the Iron Caisson family. As you read this the Battalion will be fast approaching our half way point in our deployment and I want to thank you for your continued support of this organization. Our NCOs and Soldiers continue to do an outstanding job everyday. The 589th is filled with terrific Soldiers and stellar NCOs and we have begun a program to recognize the achievements of these Iron Caissons in a healthy monthly competition. Each

month we hold a Soldier and NCO of the Month competition at the Battalion and the winner goes on to compete at the Brigade competition as well. Every participant

exemplifies the very best in the 589th and the Army. Winners are recognized with certificates, plaques, AAFES gift certificates,



and phone cards. All participants who win in these events have demonstrated nothing but the best. Our recent winners for Soldier and NCO of the month were PFC Stahnke and PFC Hinojosa both from HHC, and SGT Stewart of HHC and SGT Morgan of A Co. Congratulation to those fine Soldiers and NCOs and again thank you to our terrific families back home who help us

"Support the Fight!"
-CSM Eric L. Taylor

Check us out on the Web @

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/Units/Firesbde/589SB/589nl.html>

Visit the 4ID Website for up-to-date information and news@

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/>

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Headquarters Company "Hammer Heads"

Greetings! The Hammer Heads have been here for over 5 months now and have

accomplished many great things.

Within the past month HHC has promoted several well deserving Soldiers. Those Soldiers are SGT Cockrell, PFC Hall and SSG Pollard. HHC had 2 Soldiers, SGT Stewart and PFC Stahnke participate in the Battalion NCO and Soldier of the month board.

We are proud to say that both of them won

and will move on to participate in the Brigade competition.

HHC also had soldiers participate in the NCO induction ceremony.

The Soldiers that were recognized were SGT Stewart, SGT Porcher and SGT Cockrell. It was a very nice ceremony that recognized those Soldiers now becoming part of the NCO Corps.

The Soldiers continue to support their assigned guard duties along with the day to day operations.

The Soldiers continue to work hard every day and be in good spirits. We know why we are

here and I am very proud of all of them. It is always a pleasure to be around them.

Last but not least thank you to all the families and the FRG back home.

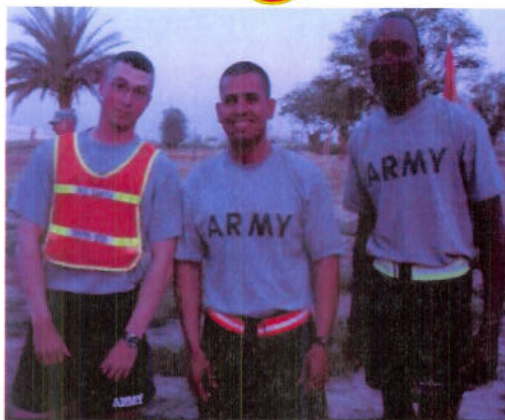
Your never ending support makes this tour a lot easier. We appreciate

you and all of your letters and packages. We miss you and can't wait to come home! Thank you!

Keep up the great work HHC!

-CPT Whittenberger

-ISG Sibert



HHC Physical Training "studs" take a breather after the Desert Fitness Competition. Pictured from left to right are PFC Carter, PFC Lopera, and SGT Porcher

A Company "Rough Riders"

5 months down! We are over 1/3 of the way through our deployment. Rough Riders continue to rise to the occasion and it is great to watch your Soldiers in action. One of the highlights for the month of March was the NCO Induction Ceremony. ISG Ervin and his committee did an outstanding job planning and executing this event. The newly inducted NCOs are SGT Smith, SGT Maye, SGT Shultz and SGT Reese.

We continue to execute lift support and supply support missions throughout the Baghdad area of operations, safely and effectively. Our NCOs are providing the required guidance to their subordinates. Soldiers have adapted to this environment and to our mission set. We will continue to train in order to maintain our competitive edge. Soldiers are afforded time to unwind. Camp Liberty has a host of MWR

events and facilities for our troops.

As for the Soldiers, they remain vigilant and highly motivated. The Rough Riders are always in high spirits and they keep each other inspired. Their willingness to accept and complete any and every task assigned to them is a testament to their character. If I had to pick 100 Soldiers to start a unit and deploy with, it would be the 100 names currently listed on our manning roster. We are truly blessed!

Once again, I would like to thank our FRG for their outstanding service. Their efforts directly assist our unit and contributes to our unit's success.

Rough Riders continue to re-enlist for additional military service. SSG Mayes was promoted to SFC and SGT Steele was promoted to SSG. Two great leaders.

We wish each and everyone of you a Happy Easter and Mothers Day! Continue to keep us in your prayers and we will keep you in ours.

One Team, One Fight... Rough Riders

-CPT Burns

-ISG Ervin



CPT Burns and ISG Ervin promote the newest Sergeant First Class in the United States Army, SFC Mayes on 01 APR



"Rough Riders" check out their equipment as they get ready to execute another lift support mission with the Heavy Equipment Transport.

B Company "Bandits"

Bravo Bandit Soldiers have set new standards in teamwork and esprit de corps as we cross-level and multi-task to achieve the unit's missions. In the past month Bandit Soldiers have executed Convoy Logistics Patrols in support of the Rough Riders in addition to performing direct support level inspections for both Hammer Head and Rough Riders individual and crew served weapons, ensuring that the support battalion's Soldiers never leave the FOB without the best opportunity to return safely. Bandit mechanics under the charge of our new Maintenance Technician, WO1 Davis, have worked countless hours preparing Heavy Equipment Transporters (HET) for lateral transfer to other units in the theater. SGT Gill, with the assistance of SPC Coss, PFC Holliman, PFC Jacques, PFC Lafferty, PFC Lowe and others have taken a fleet of HET's and prepared them for transfer.

The Air Conditioner shop, under the direction of CW2 Kempkes, SGT Tolliver and with the hard work of PFC Britton and our newly received PFC Braley are working on ensuring even these dog days of summer, over here in this land of paradise, do not get our dander up. Trips in these armored vehicles, just across post, can be exhausting if it weren't for the work of these AC mechanics.

Service and Recovery Soldiers have been working like crazy ensuring that Brigade and Division level security vehicles have the best opportunity to survive if ever engaged by the enemy. From installing additional bullet proof glass to welding guidon holders for numerous units in the division, not a day goes by without seeing the smoke and smelling that familiar odor of metal being cut, welded and designed into exquisite pieces of Army lore. SGT Daniels and SGT Fierro have succeeded in the latest promotion board and are now on their way to Staff Sergeant.

SGT Villanueva has come to us from 324 Signal and been an added bonus for us. He is coming into a great team down in the C and E shop as he has SPC White, PFC Stagg, PFC Haynes, PFC Colon, and PFC Lacoste to lead and CW2 Lopez to guide him in the correct azimuth to success.

Armament shop has once again performed at a level commensurate of a much larger section, SGT Lucas and her team of CPL Zachow, SPC Jones, J. and our new arrived PV2 Dominguez, straight from San Antonio, are working a lot of jobs and making sure we can perform any combat or support mission required.

The training and supply room are working extraordinary hours ensuring that the unit's personnel actions and military equipment are correctly accounted for and properly tracked. SGT Bond, who will be a daddy soon, (July 8) has been a great help in the supply room after coming over from the training room.

Reenlistments for an extremely generous amount of cash have been completed by our new PLL NCOIC, SGT Locke, our other Soldiers, SGT Fierro, SGT Thompson and PFC Britton.

We inducted two new NCO's, SGT Russell and SGT Williams, into the Non-Commissioned officer corps in a Battalion ceremony on 1 April, in which the Bde CSM, CSM Canuela spoke of leadership and the need for the backbone of the Army, the NCO Corps. One other NCO, SGT Williams was on R and R leave and will be inducted in our next ceremony. We have had 35 Soldiers go home on R and R leave and plan to have all Soldiers complete with leave by the end of August. So get ready, your husbands, wives, sons and daughters are all going to come home for a brief stay, hopefully you will be

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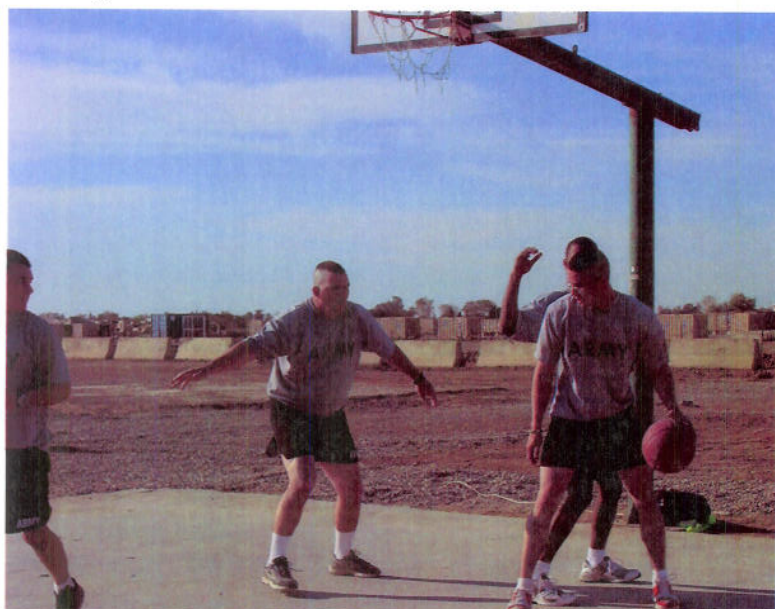
able to keep them deployable and return them back to us.

Our recent promotions for the month have been, LT Paterson, promoted from 2nd to 1st Lieutenant, Mr. Blair was promoted from WO1 to CW2, unfortunately that means we have to say goodbye to him and he has moved on to HHB Fires Bde to work in their S4 section. PFC Crawford and PVT Forbus have both been promoted to the next grade as well.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and all the goodies that we have been able to snack on as we see your Soldiers open their packages. Mrs. Bond, send more cookies. You should all be proud of your Soldiers and keep them and all of us in your prayers as you all back home continue in what may be the hardest job, that is listening to them whine and complain on email. No seriously, we appreciate the hardest working people in the Army, the Army spouse and the relatives of all those young Soldiers we have over here. Stand Tall, Fix It All.

-CPT Wheeler

-ISGTucker



Left: ISG Tucker tries to keep up with Soldiers of B Company in a friendly game of round ball

Above: CW4 Gordon tries out the new "Caisson Car Wash" a home made system to ensure our vehicles stay clean in the desert conditions for easy inspection and good maintenance practices



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Faces of the Iron Caissons



Left: HHC Soldiers get ready to start a race during the Desert Fitness Competition

Below: The Fires BDE Commander COL Batschelet greets PFC Stanhke of HHC during a recent visit



Left: Majors Bertulis and Sandifer along with CH Payne get a "photo op" with the one and only Charlie Daniels during his recent concert at Camp Liberty.

Below: The newest additions to the Non Commissioned Officer Corps stand ready to assume their new responsibilities in the NCO Induction Ceremony in the Division Chapel



Faces of the Iron Caissons The Caisson Corner



Left:: One of the 589th Welders fabricates steel for another vehicle improvement to keep our Soldiers safer on the roads

Above: SGTs Yantis and Gumont pose with their Iraqi counter parts on a recent mission to improve security on Iraq checkpoints and outposts in the city of Baghdad



Above: SSG Sellers completes his communication checks as he prepares to lead another mission in Baghdad to deliver supplies to local bases



Above: The "Rough Rider" Distribution Platoon members pose with the "King of the Road" the HET. This monster truck is designed to haul the 70ton M1A1 Main Battle Tank and has gotten a work out as 589th transports various pieces of equipment for units in the Division

Postal Information: Sending Mail to Deployed Soldiers

PFC Jones, Paul (Include Soldiers Rank, Last, First Name)

A Co, 589th BSB, 4ID (Soldiers Company, 589th BSB, 4ID)

Unit # 43087

APO AE 09344-3087



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SPO Shop

Greetings from the Iron Caisson Support Operations Section. Time is moving fast here in Baghdad as we continue to focus on the various missions of the 589th Brigade Support Battalion.

We sadly say farewell to CPT Scott Bishop, the SPO chief planner. Scott redeployed at the end of April to take command of the newly formed 575th Forward Support Company in the 1-21 Field Artillery Battalion. We wish Scott nothing

but the best and know he'll do great in command. We welcome his replacement CPT Carmelo Madera, as well as new members 1LT David Amadu and MSG Quintine Wert. We are happy to have these new teammates and look forward to their contributions.

All other SPO sections remain focused on their missions. CPT Bird in the MATO section has focused lots of energy the past month on the preparation of our Heavy Equipment Trailers (HET). This involved grueling hours and attention to detail to ensure all faults were corrected and tools received. CSSAMO is thrilled with the addition of MSG Wert. She will certainly help as CSSAMO maintains the wireless network operating for the brigade throughout Camp Liberty. In the Medical Community the primary focus has been

on preparation for the hot Iraqi summer and tracking Soldiers with negligent shot records. Mortuary Affairs maintains the unique personality of SGT (P) Doak Tackett who primarily teaches units of the Fires Brigade the details and hands on focus of Mortuary Affairs operations—he also enjoys playing the board game Risk and drinking Fruit Punch Gatorade.

Beginning this month we will run an article focused on a section within the SPO shop. This month the featured article will be on the SPO Transportation section. Hope you enjoy. I'd like to send a Happy Mother's Day wish out to all the mothers in the Iron Caisson Family. Thanks for your support!

- IC 9 (MAJ Todd Bertulis, SPO OIC)



MAJ Bertulis pours over maintenance records at the Fires Brigade weekly maintenance meeting ensuring that the BDE Leadership is informed and all equipment stays in the fight.

SPO Transportation (SPOT)

"Nothing Happens Until Something Moves" and nothing moves without transportation. The 589th BSB, Fires Brigade Support Operations (SPO), houses a section designed exclusively for Transportation Operations. With its fitting nickname, the SPOT Team constantly plans and coordinates transportation missions to enable the 589th to execute successful Combat Logistics Patrols (CLPs) each day.

Captain Daniel Freschi is the senior ranking Officer on the SPO Trans Team. "The SPOT Team provides on-time, on-target logistics with 100% customer focus, allowing Soldiers the maximum time for flexibility and maneuverability on the battlefield." This dynamic focus is possible as a result of the composition of his staff. "My 88N's are first-class and know their jobs without question." Trans is loaded heavily with veteran leadership—two Sergeant First Classes and a Staff Sergeant. SFC Wilemina Jules, the Transportation Logistics NCO, responsible for all external logistics, was recently promoted to Sergeant First Class. Their ability to pull together as a team makes this section a logistical force enabler to maneuver and support battalions throughout the Fires Brigade and the 4th Infantry Division.

Working closely with the Alpha Company "Rough Riders", SFC Carla Watson has the responsibility to coordinate with the receiving units for the supplies we transport to different Forward Operating Bases (FOB) in the area. Other missions she works include processing and planning Transportation and Air Movement for Soldiers and equipment throughout Iraq.

A recent addition to The SPOT Team is SSG Bryan Dunnaway. They are truly blessed to have SSG Dunnaway as he can do it all. From conducting a reconnaissance of future mission support locations and meeting customers face-to-face, to tracking the CLPs as they traverse 4ID battle space each night.

As can be seen, the SPOT Team has already created a laundry list of great experience. The Iron Caisson Battalion is gearing up for more movements in the future; rest assured in accordance with the Transportation Corps Creed, the SPOT Team is ready to make sure things keep moving.



CPT Freschi is awarded an Army Commendation Medal for his actions in outfitting 589th Brigade Support Battalion with over 350 vehicles and crucial pieces of equipment upon arrival to Baghdad. Without this equipment the Brigade would have been at a complete standstill.

ATTENTION FAMILY MEMBERS

Are you interested in doing a Video Tele-conference with your loved one in Iraq. See and hear your Soldier in a private live conversation for up to 10 min. Contact the 589th Rear Detachment Commander for details at (254) 288-2654